

P24361.A01



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hiroshi NOMURA et al.
Serial No. : 10/731,475
Filed : December 10, 2003
For : LENS DISTANCE - VARYING MECHANISM, AND STEP - ZOOM LENS
INCORPORATING THE SAME

Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,

Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-199843 A, which was published on July 18, 2000, together with an English language translation of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-275518 A, which was published on October 6, 2000, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,369,955 to ENOMOTO et al., which issued on April 9, 2002. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 2 of the specification of the above-captioned application;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-100708, which was published on December 12, 1994, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,974,949 to TANAKA, which issued on December 4, 1980;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-94907, which was published on April

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12, 1996, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,790,901 to NAKAYAMA et al., which issued on August 4, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 6,512,638 to SATO et al., which issued on January 28, 2003;

U.S. Patent No. 6,493,512 to SATO, which issued on December 10, 2002; and

U.S. Patent No. 6,437,922 to ENOMOTO et al., which issued on August 20, 2002.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the Japanese patent documents are attached hereto, and all of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also call the following co-pending and commonly assigned patent applications to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/731,474 to TANAKA et al., entitled "Cam Mechanism for Lens Barrel," which was filed on December 10, 2003; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/731,473 to TANAKA et al., entitled "Step-Zoom Lens," which was filed on December 10, 2003.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned applications are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file

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wrapper of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA et al.

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March 5, 2004
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office							Atty. Docket No. P24361		Serial No. 10/731,475				
									Applicant Hitoshi TANAKA et al.						
									Filing Date December 10, 2003		Group Unknown				
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS															
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
	6	3	6	9	9	5	5	04/09/02	ENOMOTO et al.						
	4	9	7	4	9	4	9	12/04/90	TANAKA						
	5	7	9	0	9	0	1	08/04/98	NAKAYAMA et al.						
	6	5	1	2	6	3	8	01/28/03	SATO et al.						
	6	4	9	3	5	1	2	12/10/02	SATO						
	6	4	3	7	9	2	2	08/20/02	ENOMOTO et al.						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS															
	DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY		CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO		
200	0	-	1	9	9	8	4	3	07/18/00	JAPAN				X	
200	0	-	2	7	5	5	1	8	10/06/00	JAPAN					
	6	-	1	0	0	7	0	8	12/12/94	JAPAN					
	8	-	9	4	9	0	7	04/12/96	JAPAN						
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)															
EXAMINER									DATE CONSIDERED						
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.															